

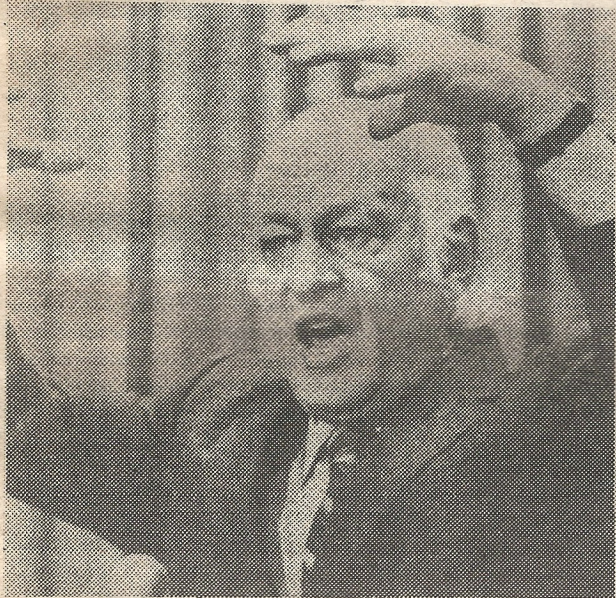
# STRIKE!

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## Quebec General Strike



Levesque, Strangler on the Loose

By Lazarus Jones

MONTREAL — Perhaps the most perceptive comment on the vague sense of malaise that surrounds the public service general strike called by the Common Front of public service unions in Quebec came from the acid tipped pen of Terry Mosher the editorial cartoonist for the *Montreal Gazette*. Under a mournful drawing of two frozen denizens of the picket lines he placed the wistful comment: "Remember back in 1972 when this kind of thing was fun?"

Apart from a little pushing and shoving at a local university, between students attempting to block access as a gesture of support for the strike and business administration students trying to get in, the general strike of public sector workers has been a grim and lifeless affair compared to the historic 1972 Common Front strike.

Back then the Common Front included a hefty contingent of construction workers with a notorious lack of regard for the legalities of picketing. Back then the government in power was the hated liberals under the even more despised leadership of premier Bourassa. The public was generally behind the strikers and their demands — one of the prime ones being a salary of \$100 per week for hospital workers. The town of Sept Isles was virtually taken over by strikers and in St. Jerome the local radio station was seized and used to broadcast the strikers' demands.

This time around record levels of unemployment have diminished the capacity of ordinary workers to empathize with striking community college teachers' outrage at having their \$30,000 plus salaries cut by 20 per cent. The trouble all started back in April of 1982 when the recession battered Parti Quebecois government asked the public service unions to give up scheduled raises negotiated in 1979. The unions refused and the government's response was to ram through Bill 105 that rolled back wages by 20 per cent for a period of three months beginning this January and imposed 109 new "collective" agreements.

Caught in a fiscal squeeze, the PQ was forced to launch a massive attack on a sector of the work force that had always been one of the firmest pillars of its power. With Bill 105 the PQ government plans to recoup over \$400 million in salaries in a desperate attempt to keep the deficit within shouting distance of \$3 billion this fiscal year. The failure to do this would undoubtedly result in the PQ's New York bankers pushing their credit rating down still further, a move that would make Quebec's climb out of the depression well nigh impossible.

The unions were taken aback at first by the magnitude of the PQ's actions in tearing up signed contracts, imposing new ones, and picking up \$400 million in loose change along the way. This shock was gradually replaced by a frustrated anger as the union leadership realized that the government was quite serious and firmly committed to this course of action.

Demonstrations against the government's actions aimed straight for the nationalist jugular. The singing of the Canadian national anthem, O Canada, and the burning of Quebec flags became standard tactics. To a nationalist party still lamely committed to an independent Quebec this was the ultimate insult.

As the deadline for the unlimited general strike approached the government pulled out all the stops in an effort to intimidate the union rank and file. Former radical cum *Gazette* columnist Nick Auf Der Maur let it be known that police had quietly gone around to all Montreal area hospitals during the summer collecting the home addresses of union officials. The government circulated a rumour that they were prepared to go as far as de-certification which was dutifully parroted by the media. In the days leading up to and into the strike the government launched a media blitz spending \$500,000 on a series of 4-page ads in all the leading newspapers detailing the government's position and caricaturing

the strikers as greedy fat cats who didn't know how good they had it.

Unsettled by this total assault, the strike sputtered from the beginning. The College teachers were the first to go out followed by the High School and Elementary teachers. The social service unions were next but under increasing pressure they suspended their strike after one day. The hospital unions, after only one day on the picket lines, caved in under government threats of decertification and mass firings. By mid-week (February 2) only the teachers and government professional workers were still on the picket lines.

The media's premature gloating over the strike's problems soon turned to chagrin, however, when the delegates of the hospital workers' unions overwhelmingly rejected the tentative settlement negotiated by the bargaining team. Encouraged by this development the social service unions declared that they would return to the picket lines if the rejection of the tentative settlement is approved by the hospital unions' rank and file. The only question now is can the unions get their members back on the streets after yanking them off. The original strike mandate in the hospital union was only 53 per cent and there might be real difficulties in re-mobilizing the rank and file in the face of government threats.

Premier Levesque has made it clear that the government will not tolerate a resurgence of the strike and has threatened to re-convene the National Assembly to draft a special law to deal



Exuberant teachers rally in Montreal as their strike begins.

with the strike. Such a law, Levesque said, would include: the doubling or tripling of fines in the Labour Code for illegal strikes, an end to the Rand formula (compulsory dues check off) and mass firings of those ignoring back-to-work laws.

The coming week will either make or break the strike. The hospital workers will vote on February 9 to decide if they will return to the streets. A lot will depend on whether the teachers' unions can hold out until then. If they can, and the hospital workers vote to go out, a confrontation of monumental consequence for the future of trade unionism in Quebec is certain.



## Philippine Porn Attacked

By Sue Kablonsky

Women demonstrating at a Philippine film festival were forcibly expelled by police from the government film centre on January 31. About 80 demonstrators unfurled a banner attacking as pornography the Manila International Film Festival organized by Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippines dictator president Ferdinand Marcos. The banner called the showings a "festival for a curse" and had a painting of a woman wrapped in film being clawed by an eagle.

The 10-day festival ended with the Golden Eagle awards being given for competing films from several countries.

Protest is not lightly tolerated in the Philippines and women who engage in it often risk heavy fines, jailings and even death.

## B.C. Arrests

By Alexander Bazarov

On January 22, 1983 five political activists allegedly belonging to the group, Direct Action which claimed responsibility for the bombings of B.C. Hydro's Dunsmuir nuclear substation and Litton (cruise missile) Systems in Rexdale were arrested near Squamish, British Columbia.

The arrest of these five individuals was preceded by a campaign of systematic police intimidation and persecution against the radical segment of the peace movement across the country. As early as December 6, 1983, police in Toronto had already attempted to frame Ivan LeCouvie, a member of World Emergency Peterborough for the Litton bombing. LeCouvie was arrested in the washroom of a theatre and threatened with a charge of attempted murder and a mandatory sentence of 6 years imprisonment. Although the charge was later dropped, the state, nevertheless, attempted to prove the existence of a "Soviet Conspiracy". A series of raids and seizure of offices and homes of individuals of the peace movement in Toronto was to follow this Orwellian nightmare.

If we situate the arrest of the Five withing the context of a general mobilization of state repression, the activities of the policing forces (don't forget the involvement of the CIA and FBI) and the sensationalism created by the entire news establishment, become immediately apparent.

First, the externally imposed division between 'legitimate' and 'illegitimate' forms of protest, non-violent and violent resistance, legal and illegal modes of behaviour, obscures the common basis from which the peace-radical-resistance movements emerged, namely, the refusal to succumb to the rule of a social order based on super-exploitation, domination and destructiveness. So long as the radical content of these movements is preserved and remains outside of the control of the established institutions, organized repression in the forms of slander, censorship, harassment, arrests and imprisonment will continue to persist. The bombings of B.C. Hydro and Litton Systems became, therefore, pretexts to intimidate members of the peace resistance movement into a state of constant fear and passivity. The logic of counter-resistance unfolds itself: Direct Action is really the source of your misery, blame them, not us!

The arrest of the five individuals in B.C. was presented by the police as a decisive "swoop" against a "nation-wide network of anarchists" (the defendants, however, do not identify themselves with that label). The terms "nation-wide" and "anarchists" were used in juxtaposition to invoke the images of organized conspiracy and violence. With a population so accustomed to the manipulation of loaded images, the news industry has little difficulty in providing materials for the morbid imagination. As in every second-rate crime movie, the most trivial becomes the most profound; acts of rebellion against inhuman social conditions are mere crimes. T.V. reporters find it "penetrating" to report on the most intimate personal details of the five defendants. The Toronto Star (Jan. 22, 1983) considers the possession of "disguises (a band-aid, perhaps), mountaineering equipment, camping gear, cold weather clothing (!) and extremist literature" to be highly suspicious, worthy of a special report to uncover their

see Trial p. 3



Roy Rogers joins the search for members of Direct Action.



# LETTERS TO STRIKE!

## Support is Crucial

To the Editor:

In his response to Michael L.'s letter, "For National Liberation" (15 November 1982), Brian Amesly "incidentally" remarks that "the NLF in Viet Nam was largely decentralized at one time and also admired by the one time Maoist China groupies of MRP as well."

Putting aside the somewhat condescending tone — without any further context, I presume that this comment was meant in reply to Michael L.'s observation that "The El Salvador guerillas are, for the most part, highly decentralized." The real point to Mr. Amesly's observation, as it related to the issue in contention, was either missed or neglected. Left without further comment, this statement seems to imply a tendency for national liberation movements to somehow evolve into centralized, authoritarian structures.

The truth, of course, is that this evolution was directly related to the intensity and duration of the US campaign of destruction in Viet Nam; the most salient manifestations of which were the Phoenix and Speedy Express programs. That is to say that the augmenting length and brutality of the venture increasingly facilitated the influence of those elements within the Front whose particular talents and tendencies were most suited to a situation of open warfare. Despite possible romanticism to the contrary, a decentralized army is quite likely to find, before too long, an exposed flank, or a corridor through its front which can only lead to massacre, and ultimately defeat. Therefore, as a national liberation movement's options are increasingly reduced to that of protracted warfare, the tendency toward centralization and hierarchy is strictly one of survival.

The conclusion from this would seem to be that anarchists who support decentralized, non-hierarchical social organizations in the so-called Third World (a view whose validity is not undebatable) should in fact be supporting national liberation movements such as the one in El Salvador so as to retard as much as possible the centralization of control into the hands of the most hierarchical and authoritarian elements. By reducing as much as possible the duration and intensity of the liberation struggle, anarchists would be reducing the need of such groups to organize themselves in a fashion which reflects a perpetual readiness for war.

This explanation, while explaining the hierarchical tendencies of many national liberation movements, clearly does not apply, completely, to all. The rapid success of the Castro regime clearly mitigates the argument of duration, but the obvious reply is that such a rapid success was only made possible by the degree of centralization already existing in the Twenty-Six of July Movement. In any case, it is here, perhaps, that political and economic values might differ. I would suggest to you, however, that there are more basic values that must be addressed. I know of no one, unrelated to the American State Department, who has offered evidence that the life of the average peasant in Cuba and Nicaragua has deteriorated since their revolution. The vast majority of the independent literature, to the contrary, indicates that — for all their problems — the peasants' lives have dramatically improved, despite unflagging efforts at economic destabilization (when not military invasion) by the US.

The mere liberation of these people from the brutalities of Batista and Somoza deserves our unqualified support, if not as anarchists, surely as human beings.

M.M.  
Montreal, Quebec

## Long Timers' Group

Dear STRIKE!

The Long Timers' Group, consisting of men serving ten years or more at the Maine State Prison in Thomaston, Maine is a newly formed group. We have come together to hopefully institute a variety of meaningful programs and opportunities on a formal and informal basis which will be an extremely rewarding and educational experience, both for the men in the group and the people on the 'streets' that we hope to work with in creating these programs.

At the present time we are functioning for the purpose of bringing the men serving long sentences together so that we can act collectively and as a whole to help bring about meaningful change here at the prison to develop meaningful legal support for its members and to develop an understanding of "how" and "why" to use our sentences more constructively. We also hope to help develop programs that deal with long term career skills needed to survive on the outside once a man is released back into society.

The Long Timers' Group is going to try to institute a set of programs that deal with "human understanding" and we have high hopes of working closely with the Dept. of Mental Health in setting up these programs.

It is our hope to form out-mate teams for the purpose of creating a meaningful system of dealing with sentence commutation and pardon procedures. And we want to sponsor "inside" work-shops on the same and many educational fronts.

We need support to do this and hope you will be interested in helping us to realize our goals. We are not a non-profit organization yet. If you want to send a donation it would be helpful.

# For Starters



'DON'T FORGET  
MUTUAL AID,  
COMRADES!'

Nearly six months after the STRIKE! Collective began to map out our 1983 fundraising drive strategy, the results are clear and disappointingly obvious. As of late January we have raised well under 40% of our \$10,000 objective. In our next issue we will be announcing a precise figure since contributions are still trickling in.

The implications of our lack of success are pretty obvious. Above all else it means that STRIKE! will remain burdened with the ordeal of continuing to stumble from issue to issue in terms of meeting our operating costs. Members of the STRIKE! Collective will consequently have to continue to make large personal sacrifices to assure that we make ends meet. Another setback is the resulting inability to publish special supplements. To date, plans for two of these have already been shelved due to lack of funds.

Similarly, our hopes for an eventual expansion of the size of STRIKE! have been shot down. In sum, it makes for a pretty frustrating situation.

Nonetheless, STRIKE! will probably manage to survive in its present form. Much of the credit for this belongs to the considerable number of people who did support the fundraising drive. To them we want to re-state our heartfelt thanks.

On a more positive note it is encouraging to see the number of listings in the STRIKE! Network growing. This growth is a definite indication of how a small but slowly expanding base of consistent support is crystalizing. STRIKE! is also finding itself enriched by a growing number of new persons making written contributions to the paper. Together with the recent addition of new people to the STRIKE! Collective itself there would be considerable cause for optimism were it not for our lack of money.

Finally, it is unfortunately necessary to re-state our insistence at having written submissions to STRIKE! typed and double-spaced. The point has been made often before but many articles continue to be sent either hand-written or typed single-spaced which means they have to be typed by one of us before typesetting is possible. Furthermore, as things stand producing STRIKE! already imposes a very demanding workload upon the STRIKE! Collective without having to this as well.

So, once again, we appeal to you to co-operate in this regard. We also would like to urge persons submitting letters for publication in STRIKE! to do likewise especially if a letter is fairly long.

However we may need a few letters written in the near future if the Admin. does not want us to be an active group in the Prison, i.e. Prison Reform ... meaningful change ... and education.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Gary Mitchell or Richard A. McEachern, Public Relations Dept., Gary is the Chairman. And write: Box-A Thomaston, Maine 04861 care of either of the above.

We look forward to hearing from you.

In Struggle,  
Chairman; Gary Mitchell



## Pro-Choice

Comrades:

I am writing in response to George La Forest's letter regarding abortion. I understand that it is STRIKE! policy to publish all letters received by the collective and so, under the assumption that members of the STRIKE! collective are pro-choice, I will merely respond to La Forest.

La Forest refers to his ideas as the "one and only clear view". However, his views seem to be based on an ignorance of basic facts, and they often extend into the nonsensical.

Firstly, it may surprise La Forest to learn that some pro-choice

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Individuals and groups listed in the STRIKE! NETWORK are recognized distributors of the newspaper in their area. Participation involves being consulted on all major decisions concerning the publication of STRIKE! and is premised upon active support of the newspaper. Anyone wishing to become part of the network is invited to contact us at the St. Catharines address.

## ON STRIKE!

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Articles submitted to STRIKE! must be typed and double spaced. The suggested length is 3—4 pages or less although exceptions can be made. The publication or rejection and editing of articles is the prerogative of the STRIKE! Collective in consultation with the Editorial Advisory Board.

## STRIKE! EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Elaine Kelly (Co-ordinator), Lazarus Jones, Micro, Mike Harris, Linda Jenson and John Henry

people have many moral qualms about abortion. However, the issue is not abortion, for or against, but women's right to choose and to control our own bodies. Pro-choice does indeed mean free access to abortion and contraception. But it also means free choice in birthing methods, support for women who have children whether or not the pregnancies were planned.

La Forest implies that women fail to use contraception through "hedonism" and that this is the reason for many abortions. He seems to be assuming that the methods he suggests such as "condoms, diaphragms and such contraceptives, plus rhythm-cycle and non-inseminative forms of intercourse" (he fails to mention lesbianism...) are fool-proof, even when available. Condoms and diaphragms are not effective unless used in combination with some form of spermicide. Even with spermicide they do have a failure rate. Also, many women find prolonged use of a spermicide irritating and dangerous to their health. And the rhythm-cycle and coitus interruptus methods are so ineffective as to be ridiculous.

Inherent in this argument as well is that women will somehow prefer to subject themselves to the insult, humiliation and expense of having to find a gynecologist (most of whom have opted out of OHIP and charge approximately \$300 up front for any abortion) willing to perform the operation rather than use contraceptives!

See Letters p. 7

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# B.C. Women Torch Red Hot Video

By STRIKE!'s Vancouver Correspondent

VANCOUVER — On November 23rd, three video rental outlets in the Vancouver area were firebombed by a group calling itself the Wimmin's Fire Brigade. One store was totally destroyed while the other two sustained minor damage. The attacks have provoked a sustained public debate on the subjects of violence against women, pornography and the tactic of attacks on property.

The Red Hot Video chain consists of thirteen franchises across British Columbia. They specialise in pornographic videotapes for sale or rent, some of which feature actual or implied violence against women or children. Various women's groups in B.C. have protested the trade that Red Hot has been carrying on, and have turned in several tapes to the public prosecutor in hopes of obtaining a legal remedy. Not surprisingly, this approach had come to nothing.

But after the attacks on the Surrey, Port Coquitlam and North Vancouver stores the situation changed considerably. Public awareness of the problem of pornography and its

connections with violence against women increased and continues to. The stores themselves have responded in various ways. The Port Coquitlam store closed, citing fear of another attack, while two others changed their names to Black Cat Video. The owner of another store, not connected to Red Hot, turned over about sixty tapes to the B.C. Federation of Women. He described the tapes as hard core porn, and cited a change of heart due to the rape of a woman friend and the campaign against Red Hot Video.

The campaign against Red Hot in particular has been stepped up since the attacks. The day after the International Day of Protest Against Violence Against Women (Nov. 26) a night picket was held effectively shutting down the store during their busiest period. It was followed up by a picket at all of the eleven remaining stores across B.C. on Dec. 11. This action involved simultaneous pickets across the province, indicating a degree of organisation and solidarity which has grown considerably since the beginning of protests several months ago.



Red Hot Video goes out of business.

The initiative is now clearly with the coalition of groups carrying out the protests, and this has kept the debate public. The fire was further fueled when a group in Prince George, B.C. purchased a tape they claim is a "snuff", or a tape of the actual killing of a woman. Consequently, Red Hot Video and the politicians who have consistently refused to act against them now find themselves in an embarrassing position.

## Common View

Before the smoke from the Surrey store cleared spokespersons from most women's groups in B.C. were contacted by members of the straight press. Their responses to the obvious question of whether or not they supported the use of violence against the stores

were very consistent. They refused to condone the use of violence but applauded the demise of the burnt outlet.

It seems that the key to this campaign has been the months of spade work done by many groups and individuals educating themselves, doing research, making contacts, pressuring the authorities and documenting their case—in short, building the infrastructure for an effective grass roots movement. That's why the women's groups were able to move so quickly and coherently in dealing with the appeals of the media and the public for facts and commentary after Nov. 23.

For further information on the campaign contact kinesis (News about women that's not in the dailies), 400A West Fifth Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1J8, Canada.



Nov. 26: Vancouver Women Take Back the Night.

## Direct Action

By Kenneth C. Hone

Whatever may be said of Direct Action, this is unmistakable. They have hurled the anarchist movement in Canada into the harsh light of public scrutiny. We have moved into a new phase of activity, a phase of activity which most anarchists today have not had to experience before. Heretofore, we have played it safe writing articles, producing papers, and limiting ourselves to theory and peaceful demonstrations. Now we are to become either bombers or apologists, if not in fact then at least in the public eye. We are about to enter in the most dramatic fashion a stage of intense public scrutiny. No longer will our arguments be internal but in front of the world. No longer will we write for ourselves, but for the world. If any of us tended to withdraw into ivory towers as has so often been charged those towers are now crumbling. There is now no place for us but underground or into the spotlight. Already some of us are damning Direct Action, apologizing for them, or emulating them.

This writer must admit to a historical bent. Through the words of our predecessors (words much of the present movement seem to have neither the time nor the wisdom to read) I've seen it all before. I'm most struck by the words of Benjamin Tucker. When Alexander Berk-

man attempted to assassinate Henry Clay Frick, manager of the Carnegie Steel Works at Holmstead Pennsylvania, Tucker wrote "I am more desirous of being delivered from friends like Berkman to whom my heart goes out than from men like Frick from whom my heart recoils, because men like Berkman are the strength of men like Frick". I must admit my feelings are much like Tucker's in regard to Direct Action. I cannot condone violence, not because the targets of DA did not deserve to be bombed but because it brings down a heavy repression. It is acts like those of Berkman and a few others of eighty years ago that plunged the anarchist movement into a decline from which it has only recently recovered. I might flatter myself by saying that for the last eight years I have neither ceased from writing, speaking, or acting for the cause of anarchism, but so many have given their lives for that same cause.

If the spotlight is now to be on those of us who legally fight for the cause then how hot will it be for those who have fought in other ways for the same cause. As individuals it is up to each and every one of us to choose the path we will take. If we do not, cannot support the means of Direct Action, we must not and will not fail to support their ends.



Peterborough, Ontario direct actionists pose for the camera.

## Trial

Continued from p. 1

untold usages. This climate of conspiracy and hysteria precludes any possibility of a 'fair trial' for the five political activists. In a repressive society, justice is a euphemism for persecution. The 'due process' of law conceals the extent of its terror and sustains the illusion of a good old bourgeois democracy. The natives of this continent have experienced it all, and so have the poor non-whites, the marginals and now, the political.

In this period of witch-hunts, our collective courage and determination are more urgently

needed than ever. Support for the five political prisoners in the forms of letter writing, fund-raising, personal contributions, education, etc. will make a big difference. Don't let the state bury them without opposition! For those who wish to correspond with the five directly, write to any of them: Julie Belmas, Gerry Hannah, Ann Hansen, Brent Taylor or Doug Stewart at Lower Mainland Regional Correctional Centre, Drawer O, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 3N4. Your contributions for the defense fund of the five political prisoners can be forwarded to: **Defense Fund, C/O STRIKE!**, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2R 6T7.

## Chile Forum

By Toronto LALAW

25 people attended the forum **Labour Resistance in Chile**, organized by Libertarian Aid to Latin American Workers, on February 10th at the University of Toronto. The second public event sponsored by LALAW in Toronto, talks by Bruce Allen on 'The History of Labour Resistance in Chile' and Brian Burch on 'Contemporary Libertarian Trends in Chilean Resistance', gave a largely non-anarchist audience a successful opportunity to learn more about Chile and alternative views of resistance.

Bruce Allen's talk traced the history of the labour movement from the late 19th century until the 1964 election of Frei's Christian Democratic government. Paying special attention to anarcho-sindicalist struggles and to the history of I.W.W. in Chile, people were exposed to a well-documented outline of the successes and failure of libertarian workers responses to various waves of oppression.

Brian Burch gave a rather polemical talk on what has been going on since the election of Frei. Concerned with three major areas, the inability of liberal governments to protect the interests of workers (indeed, actually laying the structure for oppressive regimes), the types of resistance that has been developed in Chile and current Libertarian trends, Burch drew linkages between successful resistance efforts under the junta and their libertarian natures.

Questions afterwards centered around the role of the party in the struggle for liberation and both Burch and Allen provided historical and theoretical examples of why dependance on the party ultimately betrays a revolutionary movement.

The next effort planned by LALAW in Toronto will be a fund-raising event, with details to be forthcoming.





# Mixed Media

## Illusion Flickers

With horror I see the vacant eyed stares of men, broken men  
Men who long ago gave up the struggle to throw off the  
oppressive yoke,  
nothing but spectators now in the game of life.

Lost in the land of plenty,  
somehow becoming infected.

The men with the state come rushing in  
to remove the disruptive elements.

Family and friends stand dumbfounded  
as they watch the dreadful process.  
No money did they have.  
No justice could they buy.

Timid protests, falling on vacant ears.  
Frustrated, they give up.

Now, confined to cage of stone and steel,  
broken dreams and illusion:  
trust given to a public defender,  
hoping for a lenient judge.

Shame ...

Not knowing what drives them to rebel, to protest, to crime.

Realizing that from birth  
they were programmed:  
the road they walked  
the manner of speech  
their very thoughts!

Hours spent dreaming in front of a cathode tube — the brain  
washing T.V.

Accepting what they're told life should be,  
what it isn't

what it is  
what it was  
what it will be.

Twisted versions of a twisted existence — gray with bursts of  
colour.

Indoctrination in the class rooms,  
twisted falsehoods of history and faith.  
Misguided teachers! The blind led by the devious statesman.  
CRIME WAVE! They scream ... prisons flowing to overcrowded  
Not the prisons ... Mankinds brain ... the illusion flickers ...  
unsteady ... but it holds!



The pattern remains the same.

Special interest groups select the leaders.  
The people suffer. Some not knowing. Some not understanding.

Others don't care. Money is their God, says so right on the dollar!

My mind recoils.  
My anger grows.  
I shake my chains in frustration!

My comrades calm my angry outbursts.  
"Bide your time," they say.

Can't they see?  
Time is running out.  
The long darkness  
is upon us once again!

Rick McEachern



## A Gift



Live  
live, my tormented friends  
with sorrow, tearful eyes.

For the fleeting moment when  
the Sun pours gifts in abundance  
passion dances amidst lives of a thousand shapes.

A movement, a glance, a whisper speaks  
of desire, anticipation, Life,  
now overflowing  
now receding

Have you not heard?

With what power dusk commands  
unity of dream, reality  
With what mystery dawn suspends  
pleasure in eternity

A.B.



## Dance of Life

—Isadora Duncan, *Isadora Speaks*, edited by Franklin Rosemont, City Lights Books, San Francisco, 1981, 147pp.

Isadora Duncan remains a major influence on our lives, whether we perceive ourselves as artists, feminists or mindless followers of middle-class fashion. A recent Toronto Star article began, "If Metro's top stylists have their way, Isadora Duncan-style bobs will be back." While such trends would be anathema to Duncan herself, they do serve as a reminder of how a revolutionary can become a part of general social conscience.

*Isadora Speaks* is a collection of articles and statements made by Duncan during the first quarter of this century. Focusing in both on her views of dance and her desire for total social transformation, this book provides one of the best examples of interweaving art and politics in an individual's life available in contemporary non-academic literature.

We are provided with statements that resemble the 'principles' of much of our recent anarchist writings.

**Feminism:** One can not make plans for life, or rules for marriage. Life comes, and one lives, each day. I am opposed to marriages. I believe in the emancipation of women. (p. 121)  
**Education:** The children of Communists still receive an essentially old-fashioned bourgeois education. If you want the future generation to understand the nature of Communism and the International, you must today free the child from the slavery of bourgeois education and prejudice. (p. 55)

**Art:** (In my dance) the artifices of dancing are thrown aside, the great Rhythms of Life are enabled to play through the physical instrument, the profundities of consciousness are given a channel to the light of our social day. These profundities of consciousness are in us all. (p. 51)

Duncan provides us with a view of life that is optimistic. To her, revolution is inevitable and with revolution comes the chance to regain control over one's own body that is lost under capitalism and authoritarian states. Like Emma Goldman, she found such hope in the Russian revolution, but did not witness the betrayal of her hopes in its perversion of revolutionary communism. A friend

of Alexander Berkman, she was active in gaining international support for Sacco and Vanzetti and was critical of the smashing of workers' councils and the puritanism that dominated Bolshevik Russian after the end of Lenin, basing her criticism on the descriptions of those in the U.S.S.R.

*Isadora Speaks* provides readers with an opportunity to see her as being as hypocritical in living ideals as we are. A woman who didn't believe in marriage, she married the Russian poet Serge Esenin. A person who believed in the emancipation of all, provides glimpses of what it was like to live with domestic violence and not end a relationship. Her demands for revolution Now and for artistic and personal freedom become more readily comprehended when seen in such a light.

This collection ignores such questions as her influence on Dadaist and surrealist schools of art, thus depriving us of an opportunity to find common ground with her within anarchist artforms. We are given some glimpses of how she would have fitted into these traditions:

Yes, I am a revolutionist. All true artists are revolutionists. (p. 124)

Place your hands as I do on your heart, listen to your soul, and all of you will know how to dance as well as I or my pupils do.

There is the true revolution. (p. 54)

At times this collection attempts to deal with her personal life and there it fails. It is at its strongest when Duncan is describing her ideal dance school or her hope for a new way of life coming out of revolutionary Russia. It is in those passages that the reader is reminded of the joy and strength that comes from challenging ugliness with beauty and oppression with freedom. Too often anarchists are devoted to theorizing about revolution or taking part in struggles out of anger rather than hope. Duncan provides us with a model from whom we can realize that excitement, happiness and freedom are essential in successfully confronting the pain and tyranny around us. Let us share with her the ideal life of a revolutionary:

My motto: sans limites. (p. 123).

Brian Burch



# Poland: Return of the Anarchists

By Brian Amesly

Last September the Sigma Group of anarchists in Warsaw issued a 'Proclamation to the Libertarian Movement in the West'. This statement in effect proclaimed the existence of a functioning anarchist movement in Poland today thereby marking the most promising manifestation of revolutionary libertarian politics in Soviet-East Europe since the Second World War.

Consciously anarchist groupings have appeared elsewhere in the region; notably in Bulgaria and the USSR. In the former case the libertarian presence is a continuation of the Bulgarian anarcho-syndicalist tradition rooted in the working class. The arrest of several anarcho-syndicalist militants for strike activity back in 1974 was the most prominent indication of this. In the USSR, anarchism has sporadically gained a marginal following among disaffected students and intellectuals particularly in Leningrad. These left oppositionists blended anarchism with Marxism and engaged in activity akin to that of the Western New Left.

But the new Polish anarchist movement is considerably different. It has arisen and grown within the context of an enormous popular movement which challenged the very existence of the Soviet system. In the case of the Sigma group, most of its members were students and their initial attraction to anarchism was intellectual insofar as they learned of it through the availability in libraries of writings by Bakunin, Kropotkin, Proudhon and the pioneer Polish anarchist Edward Ambrowski.\*

According to its proclamation the Sigma group was born in early 1980. This was before Solidarnosc existed although widespread underground activity was taking place in Poland at the time. Later with the August 1980 events much more open activity became possible. As a result, by year's end the group had launched its own review with a print run of 6000 copies. These were distributed in Wroclaw and Krakow as well as Warsaw.

The appeal of the review was considerable. Sigma notes that the Soviet ambassador in

Warsaw protested very strictly against its further appearance and that the review gained considerable popularity among left-wing members of Solidarnosc and students. Altogether six issues appeared prior to the military coup. Besides this the group also issued a five booklet series on anarchism and anarcho-syndicalism which was widely distributed across Poland through a network of private contacts.

The period of Solidarnosc's legal existence also enabled the group to gain greater familiarity with anarchism by way of contacts with anarchists in the West. Significantly, it is now known as well that other contacts were being developed with Western anarchists as a result of the Roger Noel case. Noel, a Belgian anarchist who was convicted for smuggling a radio transmitter to the Solidarnosc underground, had been meeting with anarcho-syndicalists in Warsaw.

The activity of other anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist groups in Poland is a point stressed by the Sigma Group in its proclamation. Among the indications of activity by other groups it notes is the appearance of another anarchist review in the Silesian industrial centre of Wroclaw. Still, a precise estimate of the overall strength of the movement isn't made given a lack of information.

In fact, the Sigma Group did not even know there was another active anarchist group in Warsaw until just after the declaration of martial law. They found out by way of a leaflet passed out on the campus of Warsaw University which was urging resistance to the military junta. Other libertarian groups have apparently even concealed their activity during the period from August 1980 till the coup. Due to problems such as these the movement was incapable of engaging in co-ordinated activity or formulating a common program.

When the military coup happened, Sigma's activities were set back dramatically. A number of the group's members were arrested for a short time and their ability to publish dis-

rupted. For a while, only writing on walls and leaflet distribution by hand was possible.

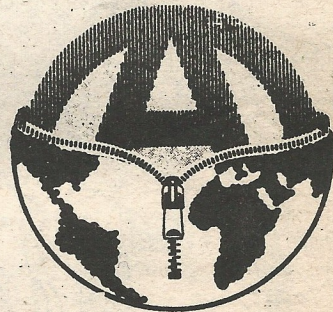
By Spring the political situation in Poland was changing as the union movement managed to mobilize major manifestations of opposition particularly in the streets. Things improved for the Sigma Group too. In co-operation with other libertarians in Warsaw it started a new underground review called 'Equality'. Sigma further notes that in this time period, efforts were underway to launch an anarcho-syndicalist paper called 'Subversion' and that other Left Opposition publications had published some

articles offering a libertarian standpoint.

By September, the time of their proclamation, the group was making plans to resurrect their original review and booklet series. To this end they made an appeal to libertarians in the West for political and economic support. It is crucial that it is given to them.



## Anarchist Viewpoint



Anarchist Viewpoint is a regular feature of STRIKE! which seeks to present material from the international Anarchist and Libertarian Communist movement with which the STRIKE! Collective is in substantial agreement. Such material may be of a topical or theoretical nature. Our aim is to expose our readers to the debates and controversies shaping modern Anarchism.

This edition of Anarchist Viewpoint features two complementary articles on the contemporary anarchist movement in Poland. 'Return of the Anarchists' and 'The Feminist Connection' are both by Brian Amesly. The author is a Libertarian Communist member of the STRIKE! Collective who has actively supported the Polish workers' movement for several years and is a frequent contributor of articles to STRIKE! on the Polish situation.

# The Feminist Connection

By Brian Amesly

Although the contemporary Polish anarchist movement has not managed to develop a commonly held program, the Sigma Group has outlined some very important political positions pertaining to the present situation in Poland. They are as follows:

- strict opposition against the totalitarian Jaruzelski regime remote-controlled by Moscow;
- support of the self-determination of the Polish people;
- a critical solidarity with 'Solidarnosc' and movement for civil rights that means:
- support for all those who fight for a real autonomy of the working class and being against all those who work for the installation of a national and clerical government similar to Western countries.

In taking these positions the Sigma Group stands firmly on an analysis consistent with a libertarian working class conception of social revolution in contemporary society. They have distinguished themselves in recognizing the unmistakable fact that the working class remains the real motor force for social revolution in Soviet-East Europe and how the workers' autonomous self-activity as a class is an essential means to that end.

At the same time, its critical assessment of Solidarnosc provides a refreshing contrast with the union's uncritical supporters inside and outside Poland based upon a range of perspectives stretching from Trotskyism to the New Right. Nor does Sigma in any way do this to the advantage of the dinosaurs of the pro-Soviet 'Left'. Given the current situation in which Walesa and the Church have gained in popular support as the radical currents in Solidarnosc have been overcome, the propagation of this perspective in Poland is a desperate necessity for sustaining the revolutionary possibilities presented by the Polish workers' movement.

Nonetheless, what Sigma says in its principles is no more significant than what it doesn't say. In particular, issues not strictly related to the workers' movement, the defense of civil rights or the need for total opposition to the

Jaruzelski regime, appear to be the subject of neglect. This in turn implies the lack of a total critique of society.

Notably absent from mention in their principles is any reference to issues of specific concern to the women's movement in Poland. This is a bit ironic because that movement began and developed at roughly the same time and in a very similar manner to the Sigma Group although it is unclear whether Polish feminism similarly survives as an active force.\*\*

Nonetheless, it is apparent from Sigma's proclamation that the Polish anarchists need to recognize how there is a rich potential for a close affinity with the women's movement. Certain basic facts stand for themselves in illustrating this.

Polish women make up roughly 44% of the paid workforce. As wage labourers they endure intense sexual discrimination reflected in their pay rates and some of the worst working conditions in the country. And as housewives/mothers they suffer the consequences of the massive economic crisis considerably more than men. This is all besides the deep psychological burden imposed on them by a stifling traditional society where patriarchal oppression is sanctioned and encouraged by both the state and the Church; two targets of Sigma's critiques and causes for their critical orientation towards Solidarnosc.

It is similarly significant how Solidarnosc itself has made relatively little effort to advance the position of women in Polish society. The influence of the Church as well as its reformist currents are the principal reasons why. This despite the fact that women workers like those who work in the Lodz textile mills and individual militants such as Anna Walentynowicz made outstanding contributions to the struggles of the workers' movement.

Overall, there exists a broad range of possibilities for unity in action between the anarchist and feminist movements but the Sigma proclamation shows a lack of appreciation for this fact. Consequently, Sigma is hindering its own progress and will continue not to come any-

where near having a total critique unless it begins to pursue a positive orientation towards feminism and women's struggles. In view of the fact that contacts with libertarians in the West still exist, it is imperative for us to encourage by whatever means possible, action on the part of the Polish anarchist movement in this direction.

\* For a detailed history of the first Polish anar-

chist movement see 'History of the Anarchist Movement in Poland' in the Cienfuegos Press Anarchist Review No. 2 (1977).

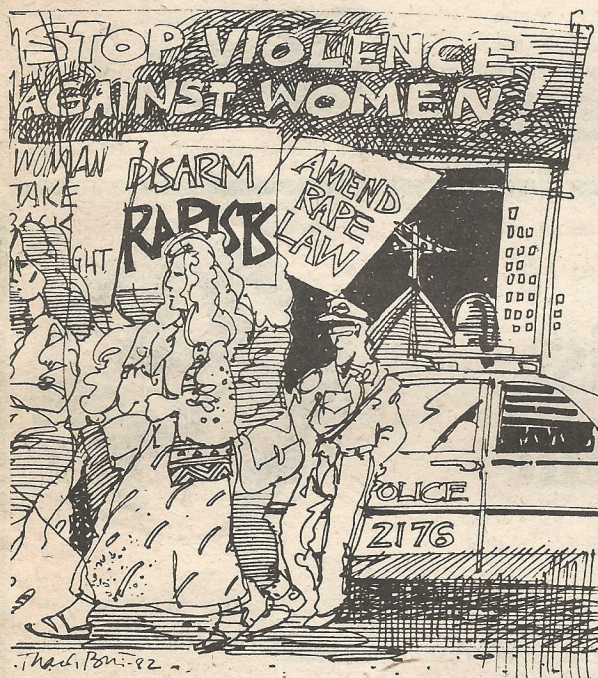
\*\* A discussion of the Polish feminist movement entitled 'Polish Women and the Polish Revolution' by Brian Amesly is reprinted in Ideas & Action No. 2 (Summer 1982)

For a donation to cover Xeroxing and mailing costs, copies of both of these articles can be obtained from Brian Amesly c/o STRIKE!





# BREAD & ROSES



## New Rape Law

There have been praises and accolades tossed at Canada's new sexual conduct law that replaces the crimes of rape and indecent assault in the criminal code with two new offences — sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault.

However on closer examination of the law the Canadian National Action Committee on the Status of Women concluded that the law could have extremely serious consequences for rape victims and battered wives. The committee opposes a provision allowing a man accused of rape to defend himself by saying he honestly believed the woman had consented. The defence which is approved by the Supreme court of Canada in 1980 is almost a license to rape. Men are encouraged by pornography to believe women like being raped, and rapists don't always understand a woman's objection.

A man who may have violent sex with his wife several times before she decides she has had enough and lays charges may also plead 'honest belief' because she hasn't objected before.

A Justice Department lawyer said a man must have the right to use the defence because in some cases it might be valid. For example, he said, if a woman slept with almost every man of a football team but refused one, the man might have a case for saying he honestly believed she had no objection to being raped by him. That is the Justice Department's way of thinking. It's almost surprising that they don't claim that some women deserve to be raped. This way of thinking is far removed from the women who had been raped or battered by men with 'honest beliefs'. This case shows that the issue of rape and violence against women cannot be resolved through the higher authorities but must be tackled by women themselves through their collective actions.

# Miami Ghetto Erupts

By Tampa Workers' Affinity Group

On December 28th, a young black worker was shot in the head at point-blank range inside a video arcade by Miami city cops. Twenty-four hours later Nevell Johnson Jr. was dead; the cops who murdered him were simply switched from patrol to desk duty.

In the meantime, the inhabitants of the dilapidated black district of Miami's Overtown had answered the violence of the capitalist State — the 'boys in blue' — with a class counter-violence of their own. Hundreds of outraged young blacks took to the streets and began to set fire to trash cans and police cars, and to clean out merchandise of area stores. When hundreds of well-armed cops were sent in by black City Manager Howard Gary to reinstitute capitalist order, they were showered with a barrage of rocks and bottles.

Martial law was declared; the 200 square-block site of Overtown was sealed off by police; curtains of tear gas were thrown up in an attempt to disperse the crowd. During this melee another black youth, 17-year-old Alonzo Singleton, was murdered by a cop as a 'suspect' for looting a frozen food company.

Some of the rock-throwing was directed at white motorists — like the Orange Bowl junketers — but the real outburst was directed against the police and the property of the shopkeepers. This was, then, not a race riot but a *class uprising* against the miserable and oppressive conditions in which unemployed blacks endure.

It was black politicians and bureaucrats of all sorts who, as 'Community Leaders', came out in droves on the nights of the 28th and 29th to help 'cool it' thereby saving their own privileged and lucrative positions. Then, after 'tranquility' (read daily poverty) was restored, all the representatives of the black bourgeoisie — the college professors, newspaper editors, state representatives, heads of the NAACP, etc., — were trotted out, as usual, to repeat their hollow and bankrupt liberal banalities for the millionth time. There's not enough 'governmental commitment', too much 'frustration' and 'ethnic tension', it's the Latins, 'Liberty City got everything', etc., etc., etc., all of which explains absolutely nothing.

The problem is not particular to Overtown, Miami, Florida, the South, or even North America, but a glaring expression of the very real *global crisis* of the capitalist system. Again, this riot was not primarily racial, but rather a *social explosion* — another class outburst echoing the Polish workers in 1980, the British unemployed youth in 1981, the black South African miners, the Argentine meat-cutters and the Israeli airport workers this past year.

The cold-blooded murder of two black youths in Overtown cries out for vengeance, for a class response. Such an action is not possible at this time. The black youth know, and we know, what the U.S. State has aligned against us: the police are armed with high-powered pistols and rifles, the most sophisticated communi-



cations technology, bulletproof shields, vests and helmets, and even armoured cars and battle helicopters in reserve. No, at this

juncture, the State cannot be beaten in the streets.

But we can show *our power* — the power of a unified, multi-racial working class. The Overtown population can meet together in neighborhood general assemblies and draw up, independently of bureaucrats and preachers, their own demands against the violence of the State. We recommend these: 1. Disarm the police and arm the unemployed, 2. Alvarez and Reeves to be tried by an Overtown community tribunal and publicly sentenced, 3. All of Miami's working people should strike indefinitely for the demands agreed to.

Whatever steps are adopted, the inhabitants of Overtown should take these demands directly to Miami's large working class. It consists of the tens of thousands of black, Latino and Jamaican workers who labour in the City's hotels and restaurants, at the docks, in the manufacturing plants, in the machine shops, at the airport and hospitals. Only this can effect multi-racial class solidarity and allow especially the numerous working class Latins to put down the divisive lies of the local bourgeoisie — not every Latino in Miami is a cop, a shopkeeper, a banker or a drug gangster! The path of class unity, as shown in Poland in August of 1980, the path of the *mass strike* is the appropriate weapon for use by all of the exploited of Miami against their criminal, capitalist masters.

## Women Blockade Cruise



About 1000 anti-nuke demonstrators, most of them women, blockaded all seven gates to the U.S. air force in Greenham Common a rural English Community on December 13th, 1982.

The women were protesting the planned deployment of American cruise missiles in Britain. The protests came one day after thousands of anti-nuclear demonstrators marched outside the Greenham Common base and other U.S. facilities in West Germany to protest the missiles.

Police dumped some of the women who refused to leave in a nearby pool of mud and carried away about 100 protestors from one of the gates allowing five busloads of military workers to enter.

The blockade was the second phase of a two-day demonstration against the planned deployment of 96 nuclear-tipped cruise missiles at the base, home of the 501 Tactical Missile Wing of the U.S. air force. An estimated 20,000 people, most of them women gathered in a "ring of peace" around the base on December 12, 1982. The Greenham Common base has become the focal point of anti-nuclear protests in Britain with members of the Women's Peace Movement camping outside for the last 15 months.

Similar demonstrations were held at 50 U.S. military bases in West Germany to protest a NATO decision to deploy 572 intermediate range U.S. Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Britain and the continent in 1983. At the same time about 500 people, again led by women, blocked the entrance to the Canadian forces base at Lahr, West Germany.

## Unclassifieds

**Titles on Polish Solidarity:** D.H. Back Press has a series of excellent publications available on Poland. These include books and posters such as 'The Strike in Gdansk', 'A Flag and a Door', 'Who Are the Workers', 'Solidarity Under Siege' and 'Solidarity's Appeal' at low prices or all five are available for \$6.00 postpaid. Contact D.H. Back Press, Box 714, New Haven, Conn. 06510, USA.

**Booklist of Anarchist literature** available for .20 postage. Impossible Books has a new address: Impossible Books, Box 172, 3952 N. Southport, Chicago, Illinois 60613.

**Anti-Militarist Pamphlet Series:** The 'No Governments No Wars' series brings the classics of anarchist pacifism to a new generation of anti-war activists and illustrates the essential connection between the state and the development of militarism and war. Works by Tolstoy and Paul Goodman are featured at \$.40 each. Discounts are 50% for 100 or more. Contact NG=NW, Box 7702, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 4R4, Canada.

**Cienfuegos Press is dead! Long live REFRAC!** REFRAC Publications is picking up where Cienfuegos Press left off. REFRAC's first new title is 'The Investigative Researchers Handbook.' Two more titles, 'People Without Government' and 'The End of Anarchism' are about to be available. Persons interested in these and still available Cienfuegos titles are encouraged to write: REFRAC, 3512 12th Ave., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407, USA.

**Like A Summer With A Thousand Julys:** A new large format pamphlet (57 pp.) concerning the riots that swept England in the summer of '81. Brixton was only one of dozens... \$2.50 (including postage)... also available, a special issue of Vertex on 'Anarchy: the Inner Voice.' Both are available from: Bound Together Books, 1901 Hayes, San Francisco, CA 94117.

**Books for Prisoners:** Left Bank Books sponsors a 'Books for Prisoners' project which sends miscellaneous books to inmates everywhere (provided an institutions allows them in.) This is possible thanks to a postage grant and donations of books and money. Prisoners wishing to receive books and persons on the outside wishing to help out through donations are urged to write: Books for Prisoners, Box A, Left Bank Books, 92 Pike St., Seattle, Washington 98101, USA.

**Leaflets Available:** The Libertarian Workers' Group has leaflets (one each) on the Middle East (2), Labour Day and anti-militarism. A donation would be appreciated to cover costs.

Also available are copies of "We Want Freedom: A Jewish Anarchist Statement" for \$1.00 each.

**Volva No. 3** is now available with a new expanded format. Published by the Campaign for Solidarity with the Soviet Working Class. Annual subscriptions are two pounds (\$4.00 U.S.) Bookshops receive a 50% discount on bulk orders. Please send hard currency to avoid bank rip-offs.

## Unclassifieds

**Third World Nationalism and the State** is a new contribution to the ongoing and timely debate on issues related to national liberation movements in the Third World. Written by Sam Dolgoff this 20 page pamphlet focusses upon Africa. Individual copies are 75c, 5-10 copies are 60c each and 11 or more are 50c each. Contact: Resurgence, P.O. Box 2824, Station A, Champaign, Ill. 61820, USA.



Rencin/N Bulletin/Amsterdam

**Emancipation** is a monthly magazine published by the Anarchist Association of the Americas with news, analysis and comment. Subscriptions to this four-year-old publication are \$4/year, \$7.50/two years, \$10/year for institutions. **Biographies wanted** of ex-prisoners who studied law while incarcerated and upon their release

## Unclassifieds

went into the legal field successfully. These are being sought by an inmate preparing a monograph based upon such biographies for publication as a book. Persons who can be of assistance are requested to write: Thoams W. Smith Jr. 6-82411, Menard Maximum Penitentiary, P.O. Box 711, Menard, Illinois 62259, USA.

**S.R.A.F. Bulletin:** The discussion bulletin of the Social Revolutionary Anarchist Federation has been revived. It is now published by Frontline, P.O. Box 21071, Washington, D.C. 20009. **Literature:** Yes anarchists do have their own literature and our outlet is one place you can get it. For a free catalogue write: Impossible Books, Box 172, 3952 N. Southport, Chicago, Ill. 60613 USA.

## Calendar

### Montreal

**LALAW Conference:** "Revolution and Reaction in Central America" the weekend of March 27-28 sponsored by Libertarian Aid to Latin American Workers and the Anarchos Institute. For information as it becomes available contact LALAW, c/o Librarie Alternative, 2033 boul. St. Laurent, Montreal Quebec.

### International

**International Women's Day:** Celebrate the struggle for women's liberation around the world by supporting IWD activities in your area on March 8th or whenever appropriate events are to be held.



# Yellow Thunder Camp Threatened

By Kamalla Laqueta

A decision made by the American Indian Movement (AIM) whose members cover the United States, Canada and Mexico, was put into action on the 4th of April, 1981. A caravan moved into the sacred Paha Sapa (the Black Hills) of S. Dakota and set up camp within the 800 acres promised the Oglala (Lakota) Peoples by the U.S. government in the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. The camp was named Yellow Thunder Camp in honor of Raymond Yellow Thunder who was killed by the hands of two white male racists in 1972.

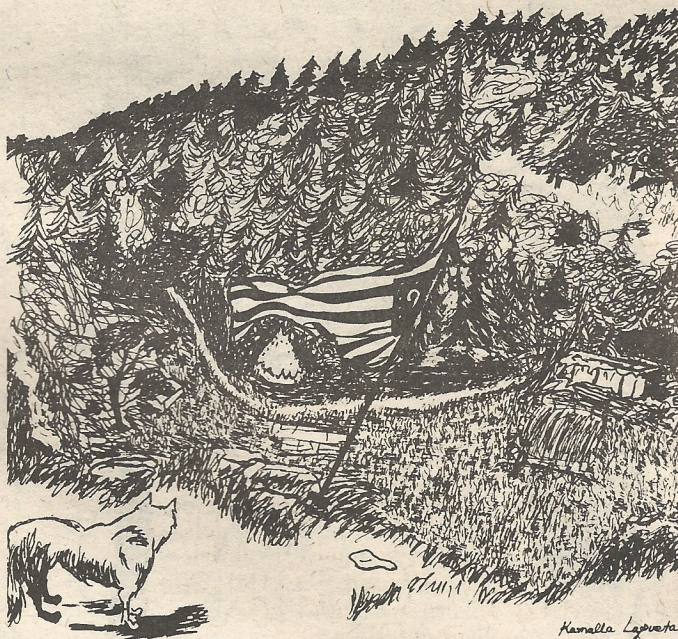
Failing to honor their forefathers' agreements, the Federal Government has taken it upon itself to disband the establishment of the camp through legal channels and threats of para-military actions. Residents of the encampment have remained to defend and protect it despite all attempts to discourage them. Between governmental pressure and local harassment from white racists in the area, a 24-hour security watch had to be put in effect.

On the 21st of July, 1982, a man was sighted above the 300 foot ridge overlooking the encampment. The man, Clarence Tollefson, was equipped with weapons, wearing camouflage clothing and riding in a 4-wheel-drive vehicle. It wasn't even hunting season. Security approached the man to ask him not to play with guns in the neighborhood as there were children in the camp. A complaint had been filed 11 months earlier against this same man for assaulting members of the camp with a large-calibre pistol. The county sheriff, Mel Larson, along with his assistant acknowledged receiving the complaint but never bothered to investigate the matter.

Tollefson became belligerent when he was being questioned and gathered a .357 magnum revolver that was nested beside him in the seat of his vehicle. Security grabbed the man's arm that held the weapon in an attempt to disarm him. Tollefson pulled the trigger in the struggle, discharging more than one bullet, one of which found Tollefson's own head. He died as a result and authorities in town were notified of the incident.

On the 4th of August 14 car-loads of U.S. marshalls and Pennington County sheriffs (including sheriff Larson) entered Yellow Thunder Camp with search warrants and subpoenas for a grand jury being formed in Pennington County. They invaded the encampment accompanied by police dogs and metal detectors. They were equipped with side arms over their camouflage fatigues.

All 38 People called before the grand jury took the position that they do not recognize the grand jury as a safeguard for the rights of the People. Indian People and the People of Yellow Thunder Camp and its allies do not recognize the grand jury as having jurisdiction over them as they are members of a sovereign nation recognized by the Ft. Laramie Treaty, 1868, and therefore are refusing to answer questions posed to them by the jurors.



A charge of 1st degree murder has been brought against 20-year-old Collins Catch The Bear. He had walked away from a halfway house where he was sentenced to do time in Rapid City, to join the land struggles at Yellow Thunder. Fugitive warrants on him were used as an excuse to search the whole encampment back on the August 4th raid.

At a hearing someone testified that he saw Collins kill Tollefson with a rifle. That's funny. A pathologist has already verified that it was a .357 magnum and had been fired from a position that the pistol had to be pried from the dead man's hand and his finger from the trigger.

A flyer has been released to expose the identity of an agent provocateur who stayed at Yellow Thunder for a spell. His name is Sam Lone Wolf. He has stated he is now armed and has been carrying a .357 magnum. He should be considered dangerous as he is known to provoke violence and is usually backed up by "military-looking men" in their mid to late 20's. He was last seen in the Denver area on the 2nd of October. For a detailed description and a photo of Lone Wolf you can contact Rapid City at any of the following numbers: Leonard Peltier Defence Committee — (605) 341-2207; Black Hills Alliance — (605) 342-5127; Yellow Thunder — (605) 342-5127.

Yellow Thunder is part of an ongoing struggle to reclaim the land from the multi-national corporations who intend to exploit the area for its mineral resources for their own capitalistic reasons. The Earth People of the area maintain that the earth is sacred and should be honored with respect. They have not failed their purpose in the struggle. As a direct result of their work the number of corporations in the area has decreased. Still, the death of Tollefson is all the reason they need to force the evacuation of Yellow Thunder Camp unless support is strong.

As Anarchists we are closely related to this situation as our goals in general are in common with the Indian Resistance Movement. You can show your support for Yellow Thunder Camp by writing letters to the following:

Rep. Morris Udall, Chairman  
Rep. Jim Weaver  
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee  
235 Cannon House Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Tom Daschle  
Rep. Clint Roberts  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. Larry Pressler  
Sen. James Abdnor  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Money, non-perishable food, school supplies and other supplies should be sent directly to the camp.  
Supplies: 619½ Main Street  
Rapid City, S. Dakota 57701

Checks and money orders should be made out payable to Yellow Thunder Camp, P.O. Box 9188, Rapid City, S. Dakota 57709, U.S.A.

(Note: Bayou La Rose will be submitting one article for every issue of STRIKE! on imprisoned resistance fighters or on ongoing resistance struggles that need our help. Each article will be asking your help. If you give one hour a month for writing letters and \$5 every 4 weeks to help pay for the support of the struggle it will make a difference in the outcome. If you want more information on what you can do to help ongoing resistance struggles please write to us at Bayou La Rose, P.O. Box 52282, New Orleans, La 70152.)

## Leonard Peltier Stymied

On December 30, 1982, Judge Paul Benson, 8th District Court, Fargo, North Dakota finally replied to Leonard Peltier's 2255 Writ of Habeas Corpus and subsequent appeal for a change of venue with a denial. Peltier and his supporters have been awaiting word since the Writ was filed in April, responding to Benson's sleights-of-hand along the way with patience, hope, and just a little apprehension.

American Indian Movement leader Peltier was convicted in 1977 for the murders of two F.B.I. agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation on June 26, 1975 on falsified "evidence" and perjured testimony. New evidence unearthed from the F.B.I.'s own files provided the necessary criteria for support of a new appeal, which had to first be considered in the court of the original conviction, Benson's.

As this news is released, Bruce Ellison, attorney for Peltier is making his official notice to Benson's court that he intends to appeal to a higher court, in this case, the 8th Circuit Court in St. Louis. Steve Robideau, National Spokesperson for the Peltier Defense Committee urges supporters to hang on, that Attorney Ellison is in the process of re-strategizing the defense and specific details and requests for support will be forthcoming.

Robideau also urges that we continue to circulate the petitions which were originally directed to Judge Benson as he will redirect them to the 8th Circuit Court or to Congressman Don Edwards

who heads the Committee in Congress which is investigating the case.

60 Minutes has continued to express interest and it is hoped that some time soon they will present this colossal railroad job to the general American public. Two books on the Peltier case are now in print. CBC Radio in Canada is planning to put together a broadcast.

On another tack, the excellent booklet of Leonard Peltier's, Bobby Gene Garcia's, and Standing Deer's writings and poetry, **In Total Resistance** is going to be reprinted with the help of advance sales to supporters. This is a very good reference piece not only on the Peltier case, but on the Third World in the Americas. For information or to order copies contact: Leonard Peltier Support Group, 3013 Bienville Avenue, New Orleans, LA, 70119.

Donations are urgently needed by the National Defense Committee to print the next issue of *Crazy Horse Spirit*. Please send whatever you can to: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1492, Rapid City, SD, 57709. You can also request copies of the petition from the LPDC.

As a final note, although we have no official word at this time, the case is most likely to go next to Judge Theodore McMillan, U.S. 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Court & Customs House, 1114 Market Street, St. Louis, MO, 63101.



For further information or to offer support contact the above addresses. Letters of concern and support to Leonard personally are also much appreciated: Leonard Peltier, #89637-132, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, IL 62959.

Issued by: Leonard Peltier Support Group  
3013 Bienville Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70119

## Letters Continued from p. 2

Are adoption facilities the problem? No. The problem lies with individuals such as La Forest who favour forcing women to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. (First trimester abortion is ten times safer than childbirth). Is poverty the problem? In part. Certainly poverty reduces women's choices. However, the real problem is the systematic theft from us, of the control over our own bodies and minds. We will never be free until we have that control.

La Forest accuses abortionists of being "profit-motivated bourgeois entrepreneur(s)". I can see it now, Henry Morgentaler in 1969 thinking "I'll open this abortion clinic. Then after three trials and 18 months in prison, I'll be able to make millions off women by killing their babies". In fact, Morgentaler's clinic in Montreal has provided thousands of inexpensive abortions to women who needed them (women who, because of those of La Forest's ilk, have had to travel as long as 2½ days to reach Morgentaler's clinic).

And of course, with his comments regarding fetus-burgers and fetus-pizzas, La Forest leaves the simply repressive and enters the wacko.

As a reader of "The Newspaper Dedicated to Direct Action", it may interest La Forest to know that a group of women in Toronto

are taking direct action. With the increasing deterioration of the availability of abortions in Canada, they will soon be opening a freestanding abortion clinic to provide abortion on request (charged for on a sliding scale). Women in British Columbia, Saskatoon and Winnipeg are also hoping to open clinics. STRIKE! readers who would like more information or can contribute time or money to this effort can write to: *Coalition for Abortion Clinics, Box 935, Station Q, Toronto, Ontario M4T 2P1.*

For an end to patriarchy and all forms of authority!

Karen P.  
Member: Toronto Anarchafeminists  
Toronto Women Against Violence Against Women  
Kick It Over! Collective

## Coccinelle

Dear STRIKE!

The "Coccinelle" (Lady-bird) association was created in June 1982, and it will probably open in autumn. It includes a library (which will lend books) and a documents center. We'll collect the anarchist and anti-authoritative press from the whole world. We'll card-index every article and sort the slips out by subjects, so that everyone who wants documentation about a definite subject can immediately see everything that was written before about the same theme. Later on, we plan to organize meetings with guest

speakers on topical subjects (such as, for example, atomic power, information processing, etc.) Files with articles from the anti-authoritarian press will also be realized, about the same kind of subjects.

We ask every anarchist or anti-authoritarian group to send us the periodicals, pamphlets, leaflets, recordings, etc. that he or she publishes, published or will publish, so that we can card-index them. Hitherto, we haven't got any money, so we can't buy anything. That problem should be settled when the library opens. At that point, people who regularly borrow books will be asked to pay an annual contribution.

We ask the whole anarchist, alternative and anti-authoritarian press to print that release. We can be contacted at ASSOCIATION COCCINELLE, c/o MJC Claudel, 1 place Paul-Claudel, 51100 Reims, France.





# The Asbestos Dodge

By Pat Murtagh

It appears that asbestos companies have finally found the sure way to dodge outstanding health claims from the millions of workers who have been poisoned over the years. The expedient is to simply declare bankruptcy, but this "bankruptcy" is not the sort of belly-up process that the average person faces when the creditors close in. No, after all, what do you think expensive lawyers are for?

There are approximately 9 million people in the USA who have worked for the asbestos industry and who might claim damages because of the risk of developing mesothelioma or asbestosis. So far, the courts have been going badly for the industry. Last September the Supreme court of New York State ruled that ignorance of possible health effects was no excuse. In California the Manville Corporation lost a case and was forced to pay a victim \$28,000 over and above workman's compensation.

This may seem like a piddling amount compared to the hundreds of millions worth of assets that corporations such as Manville hold. Yet it has prompted the Manville Corp. to sue for bankruptcy. The reason is that there are still 16,500 claims outstanding against this corporation alone, and a study has revealed that 32,000 claims might yet be filed.

For years the corporation has disputed where their liability should begin: when workers were exposed, when the disease appeared or when medical hazards existed. One court has already concluded that Manville deliberately concealed knowledge of asbestos hazards from its workers. So far Manville has spent \$24.5 million in lawyers' fees and paid out \$24 million in damages.

Bankruptcy, however, sweeps all the company's problems away with a mark of the pen. The bankruptcy reorganization has left the company far healthier than it was previously. The scheme was to assign the assets associated with asbestos to a new company (previous name of the company was the Johns-Manville Corporation, new subsidiary is the Manville Corp.), thus shielding 74% of the corporate assets from asbestos related claims. It is now claimed that claims against the John-Manville Corporation are no longer valid because that company no longer exists. Rather tricky, yeah?

Manville is not alone in this dodge. They were inspired by the example of the Union Asbestos and Rubber Company, which shed its skin to become Unarco Industries Inc. and then repeated



the process to end up as UNR Industries. This company hasn't been in asbestos since 1962, but claims are still coming in. When UNR was created it was assigned only the pre-1970 assets, amounting to about 10% of the total corporate empire. UNR then promptly filed for bankruptcy on the grounds of excessive asbestos related claims.

And so the wheels of justice keep on turning. One might hope that future dodges will prompt people to find a more effective way to make the companies pay than the long trip through the courts.

## Who's to Blame?

By Pat Murtagh

Why can't American (or Canadian, or British, or whatever) business compete? Our political "representatives" repeatedly inform us that our low productivity is to blame. We are, or so the story goes, just plain bone lazy, not like those good hard working Japanese or Germans or whoever.

Now, it is probably true that North American industry is, on the average, less productive than many overseas competitors. The reasons that our media and politicians continue to feed us, however, — "excessive wage demands", lazy workers, overpowerful unions, etc. — are open to serious question. And, believe it or not, those on top of society's pyramid don't believe this propaganda one little bit.

In the Sept.-Oct. issue of Harvard Business Review, Arnold Judson, chairman of Gray-Judson management consultants, presented the results of a survey of 236 top-level executives of 195 US industrial companies. When asked to name the single most

important reason for America's declining productivity these executives, who are in a position to know, only named/blamed labour a tiny fraction of the time.

Labour unions were mentioned by only 3%. Decline in the work ethic received only an 8% vote. Even government regulation and obsolete plant and equipment were given as reasons by only 5% each. The two largest blocs were management's inability to address problems across too large a corporate spectrum ie. over-concentration of industry (30%) and management's excessive concern with short term results (also 30%).

Thus, 60% of the corporate elite cited management — not workers — as responsible for the productivity decline. This was in spite of their own ideology and in spite of the statements that such people are constantly making to the press. With such a candid assessment why not take management at its word? Why not dump the lot and try decentralized self management — anarchism?

## Lay Off the Bosses!

By Jon Bekken

The New York Times reported last month that factory utilization had dropped to 67.8% of capacity in November, 1982, the lowest utilization rate ever recorded (records go back to 1948). This figure, which the Times said was continuing to decline, does not include plants which have been permanently closed, and thus removed from the industrial base.

What this means is that the bosses are shutting down factories (some permanently) and reducing production, even while people are going hungry, being thrown out on the streets, and are unable to find work. And, the Federal Reserve reports that the decline in utilization is accelerating.

When factory utilization declines, of course, more workers are laid off and put on reduced hours, and less goods are produced. This amounts to a kind of strike by capital, in which the bosses close down the factories and reduce production until they can make higher profits, preferably by driving down wages. In effect, they are trying to starve us into submission, relying on their ability to survive without working (most of them, after all, have never worked a day in their lives).

Thus, we are being asked to pay the price for the bosses' mismanagement of the economy; we are being asked to work longer hours at less pay under worsening conditions to enable our bosses to make more money from our work. Clearly, workers without unions are relatively defenseless against this assault, which can be resisted only by organized struggle. But how are the business unions responding to this threat? Although a few unions have held out, most are rushing to capitulate. Thus, in recent months we have seen union after union accept wage cuts or freezes, worsened working conditions and similar concessions in a desperate attempt to stave off lay-offs. Meanwhile, layoffs have continued at an accelerating pace, seemingly unaffected by concessions.

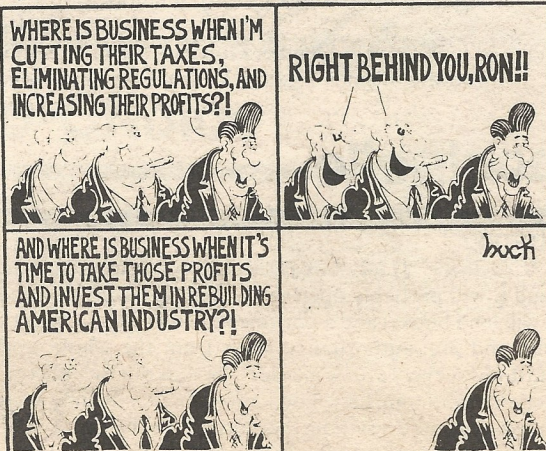
And when one union (or one local) decides to fight back, we see the edifying spectacle of labor bureaucrats lining up to sell the workers out. Thus, the UAW cheerfully scabbed on its fellow members from Canada during the recent Chrysler strike. Such

back stabbing, and concessions in general, does not save jobs, but merely ensures that all of us (who still work) work for less.

There is an answer to the situation which confronts us — solidarity. We must not allow ourselves to be pitted against each other in a bid to see who will work for the least wages, thereby offering our bosses the greatest profit. Rather, all workers — employed and unemployed together — must come together in one class-wide union organization to fight the bosses together; first for decent wages and working conditions, and ultimately for direct control over the reproduction of everyday life and the abolition of wage labor.

The current depression shows once again that the bosses are incapable of running society adequately. While millions are out of work — unable to keep bread on the table — the bosses are shutting down the factories. While the bosses squander billions on weapons to blow up the world, millions of people around the world are literally starving to death. While there remains a critical need for many kinds of goods throughout the world, the bosses are slowing down production, and laying off millions.

Lay the bosses off instead; it makes more sense.



## Labour Pains

### Rally for Recovery

It was standing room only in the Hamilton, Canada, Teamsters' Hall January 31st. Ontario Federation of Labour president, Cliff Pilkey, and Ontario Public Service Employees president, Sean O'Flynn, lashed out at wage controls, social service cut-backs and Canadian industrial underdevelopment all of which have contributed to unemployment.

About 600 people, employed and unemployed, turned out at the Wage Restraint and Unemployed Coordinating Committee meeting of Hamilton's district Labour Council where a mass demonstration protesting unemployment was proposed for February 25th. The Hamilton and District Labour Council hopes to see thousands in attendance at the protest march.

Inexcusably, the Hamilton forum on unemployment and wage restraint was not open to motions from the floor. This lowered the level of participation at the meeting. And the lack of involvement by the unemployed at the executive levels of the Coordinating Committee is a very serious drawback. However, the mobilization of labour organizations remains a positive development. The demonstration begins at 11 A.M. at King and McNab streets. See you there!

### Slave Labour for Games

Earning \$4 a day, prisoners in Edmonton, Canada, have built \$80,000 of volley ball courts. For the next 13 months more than 100 prisoners will be involved in constructing equipment for the World University Games. With reduced costs from the exploitation of prison labour the games will cut their total spending by over \$3 million.

At a time when recognized unemployment is topping 13% in Canada, it is worth asking whether this \$3 million dollar saving is not really a cost displaced onto the shoulders of the working class? We end up paying the shot in lost employment for someone else's athletic contest. Is that sporting? Just as important a consideration is the use of prison labour.

The Alberta Solicitor General's department says the prisoners are 'volunteers.' What an abuse of language and people! The prisoners are certainly not free agents in any sense that reasonable people usually understand the term. Their employment in the World University Games is nothing but slavery. The labour movement can and should mobilize opposition to these kinds of government attempts to take the bread off the table.

### Noranda Hazardous to Health?

At Rouyn, Quebec, Noranda's copper mining and smelting operations are associated with cancer. Workers at the site have far higher cancer rates than the general population. The Confederation of National Trade Unions, which is the bargaining agent at this mine, has initiated 100 compensation cases against Noranda arguing that arsenic from copper refining is responsible for the health problems.

To back up this claim the union commissioned a health study at Noranda by medical researchers from Mt. Sinai hospital in New York. Their 2½ year study concluded the high cancer rate at Noranda is associated with working conditions.

The use of union commissioned health studies like the one discussed here could prove to be a valuable tool in identifying and isolating work place hazards. Through access to independent medical assessments unions can strengthen member awareness of industrial health problems and thereby take steps to reduce them.

### Moving Ahead with the UAW

Once upon a time the UAW basked in its ability to mystify millions into thinking it a dynamic, progressive social force. But with the stigma of concessions still lingering in the closing months of the sickly Frazer era of the union's history the myth has dissolved in the U.S. making it more easy to forget the other dimensions of the UAW's subservience to capital and the consequences of this in our everyday lives.

Still, 1983 is likely to provide a breathtaking reminder of how pervasive the UAW's subordination is. This year the U.S. Congress will sit to consider among other things a new package of air pollution laws to determine how much poison it's alright for us to breathe. When it does the UAW will be taking its rightful stand together with the auto corporations. Their mouthpiece will be one Detroit area congressman John Dingel of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Dingel has distinguished himself as their ally in fighting for a relaxation of air pollution standards for autos and industries generally.

The UAW, it seems, welcomes lower standards as a means to cut car prices, revive the auto industry and supposedly get large numbers of unemployed UAW members back on the job. Also, with a healthier industry it will supposedly deliver better contracts and in the process regain its 'progressive' aura. Life for auto-workers under the domination of capital can then be peachy again and the air even more lethal to breathe for everyone thanks to this great union.

### Income Inequality

Income inequality in America continues to have a racial and sexual cast. Among those who held full time jobs in 1981, white men earned a median income of \$21,087, black men \$14,988 and Hispanic men \$14,943. White women earned \$12,087, black women \$11,166, and Hispanic women \$10,725. Since unemployment is not shared equally, the real differential is probably significantly greater.